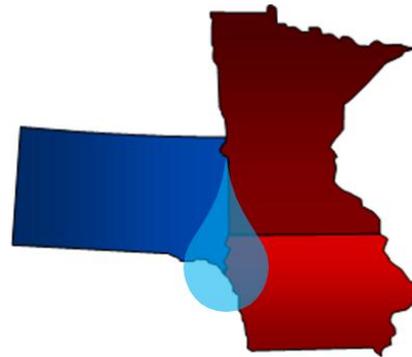




A Presentation of the 2012 Drainage Research Forum

November 20, 2012
Farmamerica, Waseca MN

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Certification Program Manager Brad Redlin
November 20, 2012

Drainage Research Forum



The Vision

- * Develop a voluntary program to enhance water quality
- * Maintains farm profitability and enhances water quality across the state
- * Recognize Farmers who are doing a good job
- * Provide certainty and assurance to the public that we're enhancing water quality
- * Provide “certainty” to farmers that attain and maintain certification criteria

The Context

MPRnews

Who's to blame for sediment choking Lake Pepin? (5/12/11)

PostBulletin.com
Breaking News | Multimedia | Connectivity

New regulations recommended for agriculture in Water Sustainability Framework (7/7/11)

StarTribune |

High crop prices a threat to nature? (11/28/11)

TIME

The Gulf's Growing Dead Zone (6/17/08)

The Goal

- * Meet the challenge, collaboratively, and enhance ag profitability and water quality



Memorandum of Understanding

Signed by Governor Dayton,
Secretary Vilsack and
Administrator Lisa Jackson
on January 17, 2012.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S1uF-G2w03g#!

What does the MOU say?

- * Support for a **voluntary** program
- * Establish a **MAWQCP Advisory Committee**
- * Provide **recognition and certainty** to producers and the public
- * **Coordinate and prioritize funding**



What is “Certainty?”

- * Offered by executive branch of Minnesota state government
- * Not an exemption from existing rules and regulations
- * Applicable to a specified area of land
- * Applies only to ag land management and practices that could affect water quality
- * Conditional upon:
 - * Implementation of recommended practices
 - * Maintenance of practices during certification

In practice, “Certainty” means...

- * No new state water quality regulations applied to certified farms during period of certification
- * Certified farms considered to be meeting their contributions to any targeted reductions of pollutants during the period of their certification
- * Certified farmers recognized as responsible protective stewards of their land and water quality
- * Assurance that certified farmers are doing their part to avoid water quality impacts from their farming operations

Advisory Committee Structure

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Commissioner Frederickson



MDA Advisory Committee

1. Advisory to the MDA Commissioner
2. 15 Members
3. Provides recommendations for program development & implementation

Public &
Stakeholder
input

Criteria
Synch
Process

Agency
Input/Invited
Experts

NRCS
subcommittee

Other
subcommittees

MDA Advisory Committee Members



- * Farmers/ranchers (2)
- * Farm organization representatives (2)
- * Commodity/livestock representatives (3)
- * Ag-related business representative (1)
- * Farm service advisor/representative (1)
- * Environmental organization representatives (2)
- * Conservation organization representatives (2)
- * Local government unit representatives (2)

Project Timeline

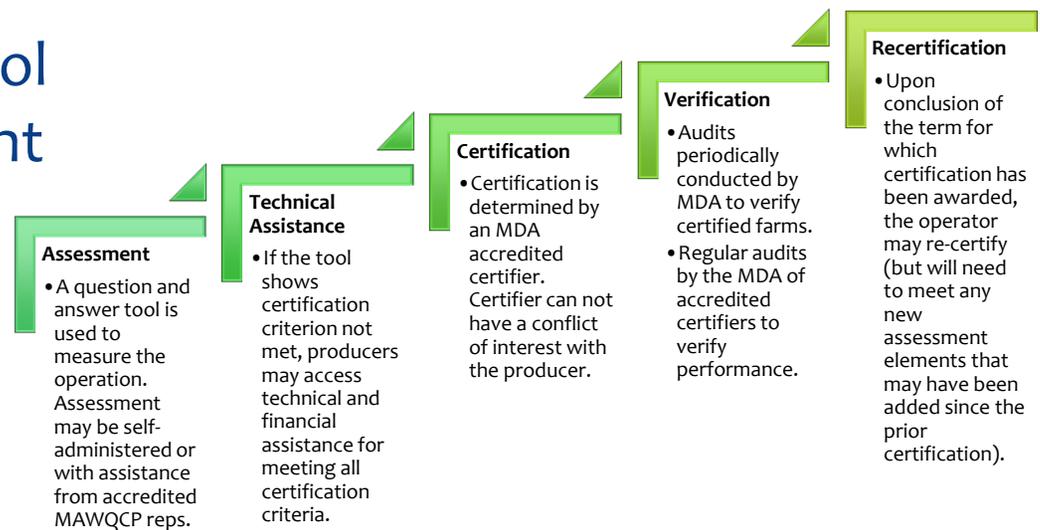
- * **March 5, 2012** – Official announcement of MAWQCP Advisory Committee in State Register
- * **March 20, 2012** – NRCS Minnesota State Technical Committee develops subcommittee on certification in relation to fed/state conservation delivery systems
- * **May 31, 2012** – Advisory Committee member appointments announced
- * **June 27, 2012** – Subcommittee on Certification of the NRCS Minnesota State Technical Committee provides initial recommendations for the MAWQCP Advisory Committee
- * **July 9, 2012** – Advisory Committee begins meeting (additional meeting dates of July 30, August 20-21, September 10, October 29, and November 13-14)
- * **November 14, 2012** – Advisory Committee input submitted to Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture
- * **2013** – MAWQCP implementation begins

MAWQCP Advisory Committee

The committee submitted a series of recommendations presented in seven position papers:

Pilot projects
Program operations
Program measurement tool
Program data management
Program certainty
Program incentives
Program promotion

Program operations



MAWQCP Advisory Committee

Points of Note



- * Commissioner Frederickson will now review the recommendations and make final determinations about the program details and roll out process.
 - * MDA will develop pilot projects in three watersheds in consideration of the committee recommendations.
- * The next step is to develop the program measurement tool, which will be based on NRCS products developed to assess conservation practices and effects.
 - * It will be reviewed by a team of scientists led by MDA with the strong support of NRCS.
 - * This process is likely to take a few months.
- * There will be an opportunity for public review and comment on MAWQCP.

Questions?

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